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POINTS ON ASTROLOGY.

A SO CALLED SCIENCE THAT IS OLDER THAN HISTORY.

Some of the Things Taught by Its Apostles. The Four General Departments-How Were the Planets at Your Birth?-Do No Special Harm-Noted Astrologers.

Astronomy is one of the oldest of sciences. It is certain that the ancient Egyptians, Chal-deans and Assyrians were readers of the sky, and the Chinese have records of eclipses dat-

ing back thousands of years before our era.

Astrology has been called astronomy's sister, and it is also older than history; but there is a marked difference. Astronomy is true and astrology is false, although the deductions of the latter are drawn from the same source as the former.

that we play a very insignificant part in the scheme of creation; but the astrologers took the exactly opposite ground. According to the planets exerted an influence over man-

This crude belief was gradually enlarged until it became an art, and the astrologer a very important personage. Kings and rich people kept their own astrologers, and other people consulted astrologers at so much a visit, as credulous persons do fortune tellers at the present day.

No doubt there were a great many fraudulent astrologers-fellows who saw in the art an easy way to make a living, but we cannot doubt that the majority of astrologers were firm believers in the so called science.

Among the most noted of these were Claudins Ptolemy, who compiled "The Tetrabiblos," being four books upon the influence of the stars; Placidus, a Spanish monk, and Lilly, an Englishman of the time of Charles

Tiberius, emperor of Rome, practiced astrology, and Hippocrates, the "Father of Medicine," ranked it among the most important branches of knowledge for a physician. During the Middle Ages astrology was at its height of popularity. Even the great Lord Bacon believed in it firmly.

It was a complete and complicated system,

and contained rules which were so abstruse that they required years for their entire mastery. Nor did the adepts always agree in the mysteries of their art, but they were fairly in accord with the cardinal principles.

There are four general departments in astrology—nativities, or the art of foretelling from a study of the map of the heavens at the moment of birth the general character and destiny of the questioner; mundane mat-ters, or foretelling by the map of the heavens at certain stated times the fate of nations and races, such as wars, pestilences, floods and configrations; weather prophesying, or pre-dicting from the mutual aspects of the sun, moon and planets what the weather will be t certain times and places. Horary astrology s the art of predicting from a map of the beavens at the time of anxiety or question the result of any business or other matter of interest to the questioner.

It is a fundamental doctrine in astrology that the sun, moon and planets each exercise a distinct, peculiar and immediate influence upon man. This influence culminates at birth, and the ruling planet (which is called "the lord of the nativity") at that time exercises such power over the child as to stamp

its character upon the entire life. This astral influence extends not only to the whole life in general, but likewise to all its particulars of feelings, thoughts and actions in minutie. This astral influence determines man's physical appearance, intellectual pecuharities, moral enaracter, length of years, rank, fortune and friends-in short, deter-

mines his life. To "east a pativity," it was necessary for the astrologer to know the exact instant of birth. Then he drew a horoscope-that is, made a map of the heavens at that instant, as accurately as his knowledge of astronomy would permit, airl studied the aspect of the

The zodiac is divided into twelve signs of 30 degs, each, and from the conjunction of the planets in these signs and from the various positions of other planets they augured good or ill for the babe.

Much, of course, depended upon the skill of the astrologer, and a great deal upon his knowledge of human nature.

It is safe to say that rich people generally got good aspects. But there are certain rules which all astrologers have always claimed

to be infallible. The moon rules the first four years of life, and during this period all other indications must be interpreted with the fa'r "goddess of the night" as the dominator of the activi-

ties and results. Her subjects-that is, those born when the moon is in the ascendant-are pale and serene; and, while full in form and gentle in disposition, they are apt to be lazy, or at least rather inefficient. They are frequently noticeable for their large, languid eyes and re-

ceding chin. The moon has much to do with one's natural propensities, and so her position in the sodiac and her aspects with the other powers should be fully and accurately determined and carefully studied.

Good aspect with Saturn promire legacies, gains and honors through the favor or death of old people; bad aspects with Saturn, on the contrary, presage injuries or loss from

the same kind of people.

The moon in favorable aspect with Jupiter promises wealth; with Mars, success in all contests, competitions, constructions or manual operations which require courage, skill and responsibility; with Venus, many and devoted friends among the opposite sex; with Mercury, great good fortune through one's own superior mental attainments and talent. Evil aspect with Mars presages boldness,

rashness and discomfit from defeat by stronger opposing forces; and with Mercury, it announces dishonesty and untruthfulness. Strange to say, the sun, which is the most glorious of all the heavenly bodies, is less no-

ticed in the horoscope than the moon. The astrologer gives as a reason for this apparent neglect that the sun, although the source of all life and power, dispenses his in-fluence through his lieutenants—the planets. It is also noticeable that Uranus and Nep-

tune have no place in ancient astrology, and very little in the modern art. The reason is that these two planets were unknown until modern times. It is dreadful to think how much malign influence these two planets may have exerted in past ages, and no one a whit

have exerted in past ages, and no one a whit wiser.

There are astrologers at the present day, and some of them publish annual almanacs which give predictions a year in advance. These predictions, as a rule, are couched in vague language, such as "January—a great man will die in America," a prediction which could hardly fail to come true. Yet these impostors make a good living out of this delusion, and as they cannot be said to do any special harm they are not interfered with.

But it cannot be too often asserted that there is no truth in the art and never was. The sun and all the planets may be in conjunction and exert no more influence for good or evil over a baby than a passing milk wagon in the street.—Golden Days.

The Germ Theory of Disease.

Some people were discussing the germ theory of disease a few evenings ago, and a Astrology was founded on the vanity of doctor who was present laid down the law mankind. Astronomy teaches us that this emphatically upon the germ as being the earth is but a speck in the universe, and physical cause, or rather inseparable antecedent, of every known form of disease. When asked why, if he knew so much about it, he and the members of the profession their belief, the earth was the center of the didn't kill the germs, or at least explain to universe, and the universe only existed as the public how such causes of disease might an adjunct to man. Hence it followed that be exterminated, he just stroked his beard and said the germ had yet to be discovered, although it was well known to exist.

"Why," he said, "we are only at the beginning of medical science. There's leprosy, which has been well known throughout this world since the Hebrews left Egypt in the time of Pharaob, and as yet we do not know whether it is hereditary, contagious or communicable in any way. We know absolutely nothing about its causes or its cures. All we seem to know is that it is in some way connected with such diseases as cancer, scrofula and rheumatism, and that like them it is in-

curable." Just then a little child in the room began to break out with whooping cough. It was the beginning of the third week's whooping, and everything that medical skill and careful nursing could do had been done to relieve the little one. "You see there," said the doctor; "we can't stop the time of that disease by one day. We may put the child to sleep and soften the cough a little, but the germ has put in his appearance and must run his course. The fact is that medical science is now employed not so much in finding remedies as in discovering preventives. And, indeed, in a truer sense than Sir Isaac Newton, we doctors are like children picking pebbles on the shore, while the great ocean of truth lies unexplored before us. The strange part of the story is that although the lady of the house admired the doctor's candor, she determined in future to call in a physician who had more faith in his own medicines.—Chicago Journal.

Ancient Combs.

The oldest specimens of combs preserved in the British Museum belong to the period of the second Egyptian dynasty. They are made of wood, with coarse teeth rather wide apart; where there is only a single row there is a rough attempt to carve the back into a semblance of a sacred animal, such as the cow of Ather or the goddess of beauty. The formation of one specimen, in bone, six pronged and rudely cut at the edges, suggests that it was worn as an ornament for the hair. From that time to the Middle Ages there is no evidence to show that decorative combs were

The Greeks were specially fastidious in the arrangement of their bair, and the Spartans, whose general habits were more severe, were no whit behind them in the care lavished upon it, calling it very shrewdly the cheapest of ornaments, and before proceeding to battle the combing and dressing of their locks partook of all the solemnity of a religious rite. Before the battle of Thermopylæ, Leonidas and his followers were discovered by the Persian spy in the performance of this act. That it was in some way associated with worship of the gods among the Romans also is evidenced by the presence of combs in the cista, or cylindrical vase with a covered lid, which contained the articles used during the rites of Ceres and Bucchus. - Rehoboth

The Mighty Armies of Europe,

Statements vary as to the magnitude of the army which Xerxes brought with him from Persia for the overthrow of Greece, but even if Oriental imagination is allowed to dwell upon the figures, this array would be smaller than the armies that several of the modern European governments can now call out in case of need. A complete mobilization would give to France an army numbering between 2,500,000 and 3,000,000 men. Indeed some recent authorities have estimated that under the new military rule in a few years more the number of men who would be directly connected with the army or connected with its military operations would not fall short of 1,000,000. Germany could now put into the field an army of 2,656,000, which will doubt less be increased by the proposed changes in the military law to more than 3,000,000. Austria has prepared for war a force numbering about 1,300,000. The Italian army, upon a war footing, numbers about 2,500,000, while the Russian army has resources in troops which amount up to 5,000,000.—Montreal

Old Clothes Made New. Old clothing may be made to look nearly as good as new by pursuing the following

Take, for instance, a shiny old coat, vest or a pair of trousers of broadcloth, cassimere or diagonal. The scourer makes a strong, warm scapsud and plunges the garment into it, souses it up and down, rubs the dirty places, if necessary puts it through a second suds, then rinses it through several waters and hange it to dry on the line.

When nearly dry he takes it in, rolls it up for an hour or two and then presses it. An old cotton cloth is laid on the outside of the coat, and the iron passed over that until the wrinkles are out; but the iron is removed before the steam ceases to rise from the goods, else they would be shiny. Wrinkles that are obstinate are removed by laying a wet cloth

over them and passing the iron over that, If any shiny places are seen, they are treated as the wrinkles are; the iron is lifted while the full cloud of steam rises and brings the nap up with it. Good cloth will bear many washings, and look better every time because of them. -St. Louis Republic.

MONEY IN MANY LANDS.

PECULIARITIES IN THE PAPER CUR-RENCIES OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

Plain Bank of England Note in Its Simple Black and White-Picturesque Currencies of France, Russia and Italy-China's Bank Bills-A Money Changer's Views.

It was a quaint little old man whom I met some days ago in a little, foreign looking money changer's shop near Bowling Green. He might have played Shylock without making up, with his patriarchal white beard and hair, his keen black eyes and curved nose, but a very amicable and good natured Shylock I found him, with not a suggestion in his manner of any desire to exact even an ounce of flesh for the time I took in asking curious questions about the currencies of all nations. I found the old man peculiarly apt in the information I asked. He had handled money in nearly every capital in Europe.

GOOD AS GOLD EVERYWHERE.

"This," he said, as he picked up a Bank of England note, "is the plainest piece of currency to be found in any country in the world, and it is good for gold in any land under the sun where white men or yellow

The Bank of England note is about five inches by eight in dimensions, and is printed in black ink on Irish linen water-lined paper, plain white and with ragged edges, which lacks the oily smoothness of our own bank

"It looks easy enough to counterfeit," remarked my ancient guard, "but, in fact, the Bank of England suffers as little from counterfeiters as any similar institution in the world. The notes are never reissued, but are burned as soon as they come back to the bank, and the paper is made for that sole purpose, and that is the greatest safeguard. In ending a note by mail or express, the note is always cut in two and the halves sent sep-

"The showlest currency to be found out-side of China are the notes issued by the Banque de France," he continued, as he picked out a piece of paper that resembled a small show bill. The paper itself is white water lined, printed in blue and black, with numerous mythological and allegorical pictures, and running in denominations from the twenty franc note to the 1,000 franc.

"Not easy to counterfeit, but far from artistic," was the remark of the old man, as he pulled out a variety of Italian notes of all shapes, sizes and colors. The smaller billsfive and ten lire notes-are about the size and shape of our own old twenty-five cent "shinplaster" fractional currency, and printed on white paper in pink, blue and carmine inks, and ornamented with a finely engraved vignette of King Humbert. The larger notes are about the size of our "greenbacks," and are elaborately engraved, but to my eye they are neither beautiful nor artistic. They are worth more away from home than they were a few years ago, though, owing to King

Humbert's wise rule. continued the old man, as he brought to light a gorgeous piece of paper about 4 inches by 10. It was the hundred ruble note of Russia. The note was barred from top to bottom with all the colors of the rainbow, blended as when thrown through a prism. In the center in bold relief stood a large, finely executed vignette of the Empress Catherine L This was in black. The other engraving was not at all intricate or elaborate, but was well

done in dark and light brown and black inks. "The Russians look upon that as the height of artistic work," said Shylock, "and it has one merit. The paper is made by a secret process, and the note has never been counterfeited. It is also worth its face value in every capital in Europe and Asia. The smaller Russian notes, the twenty-five and fifty ruble bills, are about one-third smaller and not as gorgeously colored. The smallest denomination in Russian currency is five rubles, about \$2,50 in United States currency."

IN TWO LANGUAGES. "Here is a peculiar bill, but a very good idea, I think," continued the money changer, as he showed me another bill. "This is from Austria, and, like all his majesty Francis Joseph's currency, is in two languages. On one side it is Austrian and on the other Hungarian, for the benefit of the Magyars."

The bill was printed on a light colored thick paper, which showed none of the silk fiber marks or geometric lines used in our currency, as a protection against counterfeiting. But, like the German currency, each bill bears upon it a terrible warning to counterfeiters, threatening the penitentiary confinement "to any one who shall make, sell or have in his possession any counterfeit or facsimile of this bill." The engraving is profuse with angel heads and artistic secoll work. The lowest denomination in currency is the one florin, worth about forty cents of our money. The highest bill is the 1,000 florin

The German currency is rather artistic, The bills are printed in green and black upon paper lighter than our own gold certificates, and about an inch wider. They run in de-nominations from five marks to 1,000 marks. Their later bills are being printed on the silk fiber paper.

The Norwegians have a curious currency but it is rarely seen here, for the reason that it circulates very little among the common people and the class that comes here as immigrants. These stick to their copper and silver coins and shun the little cinnamon brown bills of their government, which are about the size of our old "shinplasters."

The Chinese paper currency is in red, white and yellow paper, with gilt lettering and gorgeous little hand drawn devices. The bills, to the ordinary financier, might pass for wash checks or prayer papers in a Joss bouse, but they are worth good money in the Flowery Kingdom. South American currency, in most countries, is about the size and general appearance of our own bills, except that cinnamon brown and slate blue are the prevailing colors and the Spanish and Portuguese languages the prevalent language engraved on the face .- New York Star.

Johnnie's Whistle.

Mrs. Brown (grabbing him)—I thought I told you not to blow that dreadful whistle! Little Johnnie-I know you did, ma. But I was only just trying to see whether it would blow if I should want it to.—New York Sun.

LEATHER GLOVES.

Of What They Are Made-Some of the Technical Terms of the Trade.

There are several terms in the glove trade that may be worth explaining. The word "kid" really means kid leather, and there can be little doubt that the better grades of what purport to be such are made of the cuticle of the infant goat. About twice a year some newspaper revives the old yarn that kid gloves are made of rat skin, and tells how the rats are hunted for that purpose in the sewers of Paris. The only foundation there is for the story is that, some years ago, experiments were tried with rat skins. The results were unfavorable, the largest skins being too small for any but a child's glove, and the pelt too tender to be of any service.

"Chevrette," a term used to distinguish some gloves of a dressy character, for street wear, is both French and English, and has several liberal meanings. It is from "chevre," a goat, and we are justified in expecting a chevrette glove to be of young goat skin, in distinction from the heavy goat gloves used for rough work. Great progress has been made, however, in tanning sheep and lamb skins in recent years, and they are now rendered so elegant and so durable as to be practically indistinguishable from goat leather in looks or wear.

Until within a few years "dog skin gloves" were always made of lamb or goat skinnever of the real canine cuticle. Lately, however, the difficulties of dressing have been overcome, and now excellent gloves are made of real dog skin, though the quantity is not very large. Only the finer grades of skins are suited to street wear, the heavier skins being dressed in oil for hard usage.

Gloves called "castor" have had quite a history. The word indicates the skin of the beaver, but the best French "castor" gloves were formerly made of thin deer skin, and were soft, durable and expensive. Latterly shaved lamb or sheep skin was used and the goods were unsatisfactory. These were displaced by American casters, made of antelope skins from our western plains. They are sewed with silk, and are handsome and durable. Of late years a new leather has been brought out, called "Mocha castor." It is the skin of the Egyptian sheep, and is very thin, tough and durable and has a rich, velvety appearance.

Colt skin is a newcomer for glove purposes, and is an exceedingly smooth, fine leather, suitable for in or outdoor wear. Such expressions as "Craven Tan," "Cisatlantic," "Gant de Luxe" and others are the trade marks of particular makers and are indicative of special designs,-Men's Outfitter.

Subdued.

A writer in Our Four Footed Friends relates that a farmer had a bull so fierce that he was kept constantly chained by a ring in his nose. He seemed to have a particular antipathy against the farmer's brother, who had possibly irritated him on some occasion, and never saw him approach his shed without beginning to bellow and paw the ground.

One day there occurred a terrible thunder storm. It halled violently, and the thunder and lightning were almost incessant. The bull meanwhile was exposed in an open shed, from which he could be heard bellowing with terror. The farmer proposed that one of the laborers should go and remove him into the shelter of the barn, but no one of them was willing to face the storm, and finally the farmer's brother volunteered to undertake the task, facing at once the double danger of the lightning and the bull.

He put on his great coat and ventured into the yard. The bull was trembling with fear, the gristle of his nose nearly torn through by his struggles to get free, but as the man approached he became quiet. Fear had disarmed him of his ferocity, and he suffered himself to be untied and led into the barn.

The next morning, as the man was crossing the yard, he remarked that the bull no longer saluted him with his accustomed bellow. It struck bim that possibly the animal might remember his kindness of the night before. He accordingly ventured to approach him and found that now, so far from showing any dislike, the animal evidently enjoyed his presence, bending his head forward with the utmost gentleness while the man rubbed his

From that day the bull continued as gentle as a lamb, suffering his former enemy to play all manner of tricks with him-tricks which no one else on the farm would have dared to attempt-and seeming always to take pleasure in his company.

A Sacred Plant in England.

Mistletoe is one of those plants called parasites. The mistletoe is a gray, thread like plant, and you will sometimes see it about the streets for sale at Christmas time, for, like the holly, it is a Christmas plant, says a writer in Little Men and Women.

There are many different kinds of mistletoe, but that which grows on the oak is the most famous in English history. In England, although the people think a

great deal of having the mistletoe of the oak to deck their houses at Christmas, it is not allowed in the churches.

Many, many hundred years ago the mistletoe was a sacred plant in England. The people did not worship the one true God, but they believed in several evil spirits, and these spirits they worshiped and tried to please. For these spirits they set apart the oak trees.

Their priests were called Druids, and they built their altars in oak groves. There they prayed and sang their hymns of praise. Dressed in long white robes, these Druids marched in procession to the oak trees and cut off the mistletoe with knives of gold. After saying a prayer over it they cut it in short pieces and gave it as a New Year's gift among the people, who kept it carefully.

His Little Snack.

It is perhaps because there are exceptions to all rules that some persons seem to be able to bid defiance to many of the recognized laws of health.

"Wouldn't you like a little something to eat before you go to bed?" said an old farmer to a guest who was about retiring for the night.

"No, thank you," was the reply. "I never

eat anything after supper." "You don't? Well, I couldn't sleep if I didn't have a little snack of some sort 'fore I

ent to bed. Of course I don't eat a reg'lar eal, but I feel all the better for a piece of pie and two or three doughnuts with some cheese and a pickle and a bite of cold porksome light refreshment, you know, just to stay the stomach."—Youth's Companion.